

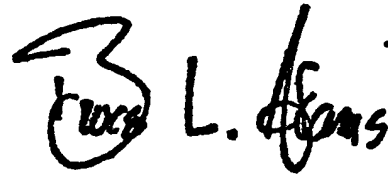
REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, the specification has been amended to add as the first sentence thereof reference to the corresponding international and priority applications.

Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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MAY 23, 2006  
Date